

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 8-15 are pending in the application, with claim 8 being the sole independent claim. By this amendment, claims 1-7 have been cancelled, and claims 8-15 are newly presented. Support for the new claims can be found in the application, as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,200,763 (Tanuma et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 6,280,208 (Masuda et al.). Claim 5 was rejected under Section 103, as unpatentable over the combination of Tanuma et al. and Masuda et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,798,483 (Nashitani et al.). Claim 7 was rejected under Section 103 as unpatentable over the combination of Tanuma et al. and Masuda et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,268,566 (Takiguchi et al.). Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, claims 1-7 have been canceled herein, and claims 8-15 are newly presented.

In an aspect of Applicant's invention, independent claim 8 recites an image forming apparatus that forms an image on a recording material. The image forming apparatus features an electrical board, a unit, an electrical cable, and an electrical cable holder. The unit is provided at a portion spaced from the electrical board, and receives current from the electrical board. The electrical cable electrically connects between the electrical board and the unit. A surface of the electrical cable is insulated. The electrical cable holder has a resin member, a conductive sheet provided on the resin member and grounded, and a cable supporting member

that supports the electrical cable to contact the surface of the electrical cable with the conductive sheet.

Thus, a novel image forming apparatus according to Applicant's invention includes an electrical cable holder having a resin member, a conductive sheet provided on the resin member and grounded, and a cable supporting member that supports the electrical cable to contact the surface of the electrical cable with the conductive sheet. By virtue of Applicant's invention, for example, a surface of an electrical cable can be grounded to remove noise caused by a current in the electrical cable.

Many features of Applicant's claimed invention are not taught or suggested by the cited patents, whether those patents are taken alone or in combination.

Tanuma et al. relates to a printer with an LED print head having means for setting data about the print head. Applicant understands Tanuma et al. to teach the wiring on an electrical board of an LED array print head to connect between an electrical connector for connecting an LED element with an external terminal and the LED element. However, nowhere does Tanuma et al. teach or suggest at least that an electrical cable holder has a resin member, a conductive sheet provided on the resin member and grounded, and a cable supporting member that supports the electrical cable to contact an insulated surface of the electrical cable with the conductive sheet, as recited in independent claim 8.

Masuda et al. relates to a shield connector structure for the terminal connection of a shield electric wire to a motor of an electric automobile as well as for the ground connection of a shield portion of the shield electric wire to a case of a device. As shown in Figure 1 of Masuda et al., a shield member 4 (in contact with a synthetic resin housing 2) is inserted into a hole

formed through a metal case 29. The shield member 4 acts as a ground with respect to the case 29. In addition, a conductive metal shield sleeve 8 is used to fix a winding 7 of the shield electric wire 6 in the state contacting with the outer peripheral surface of the shield member 4 from the outside by fastening. However, nowhere is Masuda et al. understood to teach or suggest at least that an electrical cable holder has a resin member, a conductive sheet provided on the resin member and grounded, and a cable supporting member that supports the electrical cable to contact an insulated surface of the electrical cable with the conductive sheet, as recited in independent claim 8. Specifically, neither the shield sleeve 8 nor the shield member 4 of Masuda et al. are understood to contact an outer surface of the shield electric wire 6.

Nashitani et al. relates to a grounding device for an image forming machine, and is understood to be cited for teaching a conductive grounding device capable of noise suppression at high frequency. Takiguchi et al. relates to an electric wire holder, and is understood to be cited for teaching holding a plurality of electric wires. Neither of these patents is understood to cure the deficiencies of the patents discussed above. Specifically, neither of these patents are understood to teach or suggest at least that an electrical cable holder has a resin member, a conductive sheet provided on the resin member and grounded, and a cable supporting member that supports the electrical cable to contact an insulated surface of the electrical cable with the conductive sheet, as recited in independent claim 8.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 8 is allowable over the cited patents, whether those patents are taken alone, or in combination.

Claims 9-15 depend from claim 8, and are submitted to be allowable for the reasons noted above with respect to claim 8, and in their own right, for reciting other patentable

features of Applicant's invention. Favorable and independent consideration of the dependent claims are requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. J. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

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